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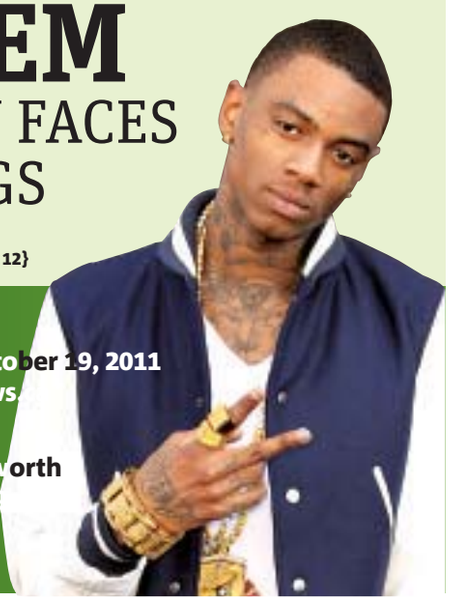
UFO CAPITAL
SEDONA ARIZONA A MECCA FOR THE UNEXPLAINED {page 13}

TELL 'EM
SOULJA BOY FACES GUNS, DRUGS CHARGES {page 12}



LONDON metro®
Wednesday, October 19, 2011
www.metronews.
News worth sharing

Body art vs. body image

Tattoos, piercings still concern in some work environments ◗ Study to find how accepting today's employers are

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ Amanda Eagles, 21, of London works behind the counter yesterday at Coffee Culture on Dundas Street. Eagles has two tattoos, including a large peacock on her right arm, a nose ring and four other piercings.

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

Amanda Eagles got her first tattoo at 16 years old.

Since then, she's added two more, had the original tattoo removed and racked up five piercings — four of which are above her neck. The body art has never been a problem for any of her employers, and she doesn't expect it to become an issue when she starts working toward a career in nursing.

"I have one friend who's a paramedic … one friend who's a nurse, and they are covered in tattoos," said Eagles, a 21-year-old Londoner who works at Coffee Culture. "It just seems like it's more acceptable these days."

Whether tattoos and piercings are still workplace taboos is up for debate as Cayla Martin, a University of Calgary graduate student, sets out on a study to answer the question once and for all.

Martin is drawing partly on her own experience in which she was told to hide her tattoos and piercings while working her way through university.

Martin and Eagles were both surprised to hear that some employers remain wary of or place bans on hiring people who have chosen to get inked.

Sue Jacobs, owner of Personal Style Image Consulting in London, isn't as taken aback. While she would never discourage someone from getting a tattoo or piercing, stereotypes built around them continue to exist and can affect a person's "perceived image," she said, adding that body decoration plays a big role in first impressions.

In a job interview, where casting the right image plays a large role in being a standout candidate, body decorations may have a negative impact.

In some instances, tattoos and piercings could be "self-sabotage" when two people meet for the first time, Jacobs said.

Jacobs said people need to be more aware of the issue if they work in traditionally conservative fields like finance and insurance, where people working in more artsy, creative fields generally have a little more leeway with self-expression.

WITH FILES FROM CANADIAN PRESS

RILEY BRANDT/UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Cayla Martin

Tattoos/piercings

- A recent sample of 400 undergrads at a U.S. university found that 70 per cent of women and 20 per cent of men had body piercings of some type and more than a quarter had tattoos.

Source: Cayla Martin, a University of Calgary graduate student, and The Canadian Press

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LTC supports NDP transit proposal

Federal strategy could mean more support, better service

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olivia Chow

A call for a federal public-transit strategy could have big implications for the London Transit Commission.

Ultimately, such a strategy would mean "faster, better and more reliable service," said John Ford, the LTC's director of transportation and planning.

That could come through equipment upgrades, like more buses, or new infrastructure like special bus lanes on roads or traffic lights that can be manipulated to keep buses running on schedule, Ford said.

All of that takes money, of course, and establishing a formula for pumping federal dollars into local systems is at the heart of the national proposal.

MP Olivia Chow, the NDP Opposition critic for transport, infrastructure and communities, is behind the idea and has put forward a private member's bill calling for the strategy to be developed.

It is likely to see its first debate later this month, Ford said.

"Transit has a lot of capital needs, and I think the federal government already recognizes their role," Ford said, noting the LTC occasionally receives federal money. "It's important to create … dependable, sustainable funding for transit."

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ A London Transit bus makes a stop along Dundas Street recently. Officials at the London Transit Commission are trying to rally support behind an NDP proposal that would create a a mechanism for stable transit funding at the federal level.

News in brief

Student contracts deadly disease

Fanshawe College and local health officials are taking several precautions following a confirmed case of Meningococcal disease.

AM980 has confirmed one student has been diagnosed and has been treated. The health unit has also interviewed the unidentified student's close contacts.

Meningococcal disease is an infection caused by bacteria. It carries a high death rate if untreated. Best known as a cause of meningitis, widespread blood infection known as sepsis is more damaging.

The name of the student — and his or her program — is not being released to protect the person's identity.

The disease is spread through the transmission of saliva.

AM980/AM980.CA

Art for sale at annual show

The Gallery Painting Group invites the public to its annual juried show and sale at the Byron Memorial Library (1295 Commissioners Rd. W.).

The show and sale takes place tomorrow from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., with jurors' comments at 7 p.m.

The event is also on Friday (10 a.m. to 9 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Free entry and refreshments. METRO

Lightning to make NBL debut

The London Lightning, make their National Basketball League of Canada debut on Sunday at the JLC in a preseason game.

The Lightning host the Oshawa Power at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the John Labatt Centre box office 519-432-8894, johnlabattcentre.com, or lightningbasketball.ca.

The team is also expected to name its roster on Friday. METRO

Charges laid in 401 crash

Middlesex OPP have laid charges in connection with a crash that kept all westbound lanes of the 401 near the Colonel Talbot exit closed for three hours during rush hour Monday afternoon.

Mario Grammond, 41, from Chatham-Kent has been charged with careless driving. Police say his transport truck struck the rear of a second transport.

AM980/AM980.CA

1 news

An experimental malaria vaccine makes an encouraging showing in clinical research. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

Rugby star Adam Kleeberger's famous beard is sent to a better place for a good cause. Video at metronews.ca

Follow us on Twitter @themetrolondon

News in brief

Man charged in sex assault

CRIME. Police have charged a London man after a female employee was assaulted Saturday at the Sears outlet store (530 Oxford St. W.). Shawn Riddick, 35, faces one count of sexual assault. METRO

Get your tickets

SHOW. Broadway in London presents Fiddler on the Roof on Jan. 30 at the John Labatt Centre. Showtime is 7:30 p.m.

Tickets ($55, $50, $40) go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. Get them at the JLC box office, Masonville Place ticket outlet, Fanshawe College BizBooth, the Bookstore at Western and Books Plus. Or you can call 866-455-2849 or visit johnlabattcentre.com.
METRO

Crash victim identified

FATALITY. Provincial police have released the name of the man killed in a single-vehicle collision Monday morning in Oxford County in southwestern Ontario.

Police say Mykelle Watling of South-West Oxford was travelling on Road 66 in Zorra Township, north of Ingersoll, when he lost control of his vehicle, entered the ditch and struck a tree around 5:40 a.m.

Watling, 24, was pronounced dead at the scene.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Is majority still in reach?

McGuinty won't speculate on whether opposition member may cross floor

As speculation about a possible defection to the Liberals grows ahead of this week's cabinet shuffle, Premier Dalton McGuinty remained coy yesterday about whether an opposition member would join his ranks to give him a majority mandate.

The premier came out swinging right after the provincial election, which left him one seat short of a majority, describing his new mandate as a "major minority" and suggesting the party planned to rule much like it had over its past two mandates.

After a week of warnings from the opposition leaders that he be more humble, McGuinty was still unwilling to speculate about any behind-the-scenes wooing, but didn't rule out the possibility either.

Asked yesterday whether he would turn away any opposition members who came knocking, McGuinty curtly replied that it wasn't something he wanted to speculate on.

"We are honoured that we have been granted 53 seats in our government, I accept that gratefully, and we will make the very best of that," McGuinty said.

New Democrat Andrea Horwath said last week that she had commitments from every member of her party that they would not defect or run for the role of Speaker.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO FILE

▶ Dalton McGuinty was elected Ontario premier for a third consecutive term on Oct. 6.

"I'm not counting on any movement, I'm not trying to control the uncontrollable. I'm going to proceed on the basis of 53 seats and to deliver the best possible strong, stable government to the people of Ontario."
PREMIER DALTON MCGUINTY

"From our benches, absolutely not. We're solid," Horwath said again yesterday.

Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak, whom many say is at the highest risk of losing an MPP after losing an election that he was favoured to win, also downplayed the speculation.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime bill sparks war of words

Conservatives say their bill is effective and affordable, at a cost of $78.5M over five years

One expert after another is warning the federal government that its massive crime bill will do more harm than good, costing taxpayers dearly for a punitive system that will only serve to make the streets more dangerous.

But Conservative MPs are questioning the credibility of those experts, suggesting they are advocating for criminals.

"We believe the substance of this legislation both to be self-defeating and counterproductive, if the goal is to enhance public safety," Eric Gottardi, vice-chair of the Canadian Bar Association's national criminal justice section, said yesterday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Massive package

- The omnibus bill merges nine previous pieces of legislation, and adds new elements, tying them into a massive package that critics say is an "incoherent" attempt to crack down on dangerous criminals.
- The measures aim to toughen penalties for drug traffickers, child-sex crimes and violent young offenders. The bill would also make pardons more difficult to obtain. And it would give victims of crime more rights to have their voices heard in the parole system.

Prisoners. Freed

▶ Palestinian youth celebrate the release of prisoners at the Rafah border crossing in southern Gaza Strip yesterday. More than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners were released in exchange for captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, seen after his release in inset.

EYAD BABA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISRAELI DEFENCE FORCE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli, Palestinians return home

Israeli officials said Gilad Shalit showed signs of malnutrition as he emerged from more than five years of captivity, and his father said he needed time to recover from psychological and physical wounds. Palestinians celebrated the release of their prisoners in the West Bank and Gaza, where massive rallies festooned with green Hamas flags were held.

Young families caught in economic squeeze

A Canadian research institute says baby boomers are retiring as the wealthiest generation in history while couples with young children are stuck in an economic squeeze.

The Human Early Learning Partnership at the University of British Columbia released a report yesterday calling on federal and provincial governments to spend $22 billion on social programs to fix a declining standard of living for young families.

It recommends funding a system that prevents parents from spending more than $10 a day on child care and allows for 18-month parental leaves from work.

Public policy professor Paul Kershaw, a self-professed crusader for families, released the findings in Saskatoon with colleagues from the University of Saskatchewan. He said he wants the report to be part of the Nov. 7 provincial election debate in Saskatchewan.

"We have a generation that's squeezed," Kershaw said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

30 Accounting for inflation, young couples are bringing in nearly the same household income as those before them did 30 years ago, even though there are more women in the workforce, said public policy professor Paul Kershaw.

76 Kershaw's report blames skyrocketing housing prices and expensive daycare. It said the average housing price in Canada has jumped 76 per cent since 1976.

18 Kershaw said parental leave should be increased to 18 months from 12, especially to give dads more time at home with their children.

80 The report recommends insuring 80 per cent of parental income — up to $60,000 a year — double the existing benefit.

Cursing on Twitter to help charity

Finally, cursing a blue streak is going to pay off — for charity that is.

The digital SwearJar wants you to pay up every time you use a curse word on Twitter. By signing up with SwearJar, users pledge to donate about $1.55, or whatever they can afford, every time they swear.

The retweeter pays for retweeted profanity, not the original tweeter. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Half of Canucks feel Obama is doing well: Poll

Fifty-one per cent of Canadians surveyed in a poll said they think U.S. President Barack Obama is doing at least a good job. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Tracking apps: Are you ever alone?

Story of man catching cheating wife raises privacy concerns

LILLO MONTALTO MONELLA
LONDON@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS

BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ People turning to their mobile phones to tell others where they are has been a boon for burglars, because if you're somewhere, that also means you're not at home.

Next time you download a mobile app, be warned: it could wreck your marriage, as one episode in New York City suggests.

A man claims he discovered his wife was two-timing him after turning on his new iPhone 4S and his Find My Friends app pinpointed her exact location.

Whether this "spying via app" story is a hoax or not, it raises the question of what the possibilities are in "smartphone espionage."

"The story raises big privacy issues: people either forget their apps are turned on, or they are just careless about using them. You might have just broken up and it'll be easy for your ex to start stalking you," Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant at the London-based security company Sophos, told Metro.

So, next time you find yourself about to install a mobile app that tracks your movements while you mosey through town, well, think about it twice. It may be used against you.

60 seconds

MODERN SPYING

Leon Hart, private detective

Do you actually use social media or apps to find unfaithful bedmates?
We do use LinkedIn, Facebook or Google Latitude to track down people. Those are the places that we normally search.

Any other special trick from your bag?
We rely on our apps we developed along with other detective agencies. When we install them, they are practically invisible to the phone owner.

You can't hide

These apps find you and tell the world.

- **Foursquare**
  Lets you virtually "check in" to different locations, find out where your friends are and receive ads about what may interest you nearby.
- **Find My Friends**
  Free gizmo tracks down where people are at a given time through reading out a text location, and by plotting buddies on a map.
- **Facebook Places**
  It allows to let your friends know where you are simply by tapping the Places button on your Facebook mobile app.
- **Gowalla**
  It's not only another location-based service: it works also as a social guide to the most loved places and cities.

We like our politicians tall and buff

KARIN WASTESON
METRO WORLD NEWS

We want our big politicians, who have to make big decisions, to be the "big men," literally speaking.

Politicians blessed with height and physical prowess have a greater chance of having a successful career in power than their diminutive rivals, new research claims.

In a U.S.-based study published yesterday, psychologists suggest this "caveman" political leaning may stem from an evolutionary desire since ancient times for physically dominating leaders who could triumph over their adversaries.

58% The taller candidate has won 58 per cent in US presidential elections between 1789 and 2008, a pattern named the "presidential height index."

"Some traits and instincts that may have been acquired through evolution continue to manifest themselves in modern life," Prof. Gregg Murray of Texas Tech University, lead author of the report, said.

"A near-universal fear of snakes and a preference for fatty foods likely evolved from when snakes were a common threat and caloric intake was uncertain. We believe similar traits exist in politics," he continued.

Murray's team asked U.S. college students to draw an ideal leader and ordinary citizen. The majority — 64 per cent — drew a national leader who was taller than their average citizen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ At six-foot-two and six-foot-one respectively, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama are two of the tallest world leaders.

BBX is wave of future: RIM

New operating system will help company take on Apple, co-CEO says

ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Mike Lazaridis, co-CEO of Research in Motion, speaks at the BlackBerry DevCon Americas conference yesterday in San Francisco.

Research In Motion's new mobile operating system will power its next-generation BlackBerry smartphones and PlayBook tablets to better compete with Internet-friendly Apple and Android devices.

Yesterday's announcement by co-CEO Mike Lazaridis comes just days after RIM had the worst service outage in its history. The company is trying to reposition its wireless devices as market leaders.

"Today, I'm pleased to announce our next-generation platform, BBX," Lazaridis said at RIM's software developer conference in San Francisco.

The BBX platform is based on the system that is already in the PlayBook tablet but has been expanded, Lazaridis said.

RIM is expected to launch new BlackBerrys with the more powerful BBX system early next year. They are expected to be even more like mobile computers.

Lazaridis reiterated that RIM won't ditch its PlayBook, which has been languishing on store shelves and sold fewer than one million units since its debut in April.

"We're absolutely committed to the BlackBerry PlayBook," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Decline and fall

- **RIM, based in Waterloo,** Ont., once claimed a market value of about $70 billion and has, from time to time, been Canada's most valuable company.
- **RIM shares have been** held by millions of Canadians in their pensions, mutual funds or other investments.
- **It now has a market value** of about $12 billion and shareholders have complained about its lagging stock price and corporate leadership.

Economy be darned, we're going on holiday!

Canadians are still planning fall and winter vacations despite uncertainty about the economy, a Bank of Montreal survey says. It found 61 per cent of Canadians say they will take a fall or winter holiday. About 20 per cent say they will travel outside Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wheat board mulls action against Ottawa

The federal government could face a challenge to its plan to strip the Canadian Wheat Board of its monopoly on western wheat and barley sales in time for the next crop year.

Board chairman Allan Oberg says he is meeting agency directors next week to look at legal options.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

HOUSING MARKET STRUGGLING

American builders adjust outlook

U.S. homebuilders are less pessimistic about the housing market, but not enough to signal a recovery any time soon. The National Association of Home Builders said yesterday that its index of builder sentiment this month rose to 18 from 14. Any reading below 50 indicates negative sentiment about the market.

Last year, the number of Americans who bought new homes fell to its lowest level in nearly 50 years. Sales this year have not fared much better, as builders struggle to compete with foreclosures, which have made the price of resale homes more competitive.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greece. Debt crisis

▶ Mounds of rotting garbage line the port of Piraeus, near Athens. Greece ordered garbage collectors back to work yesterday as a campaign of strikes escalated against tough austerity measures to be voted on this week.

PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greek garbage workers strike back

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

Oil	Natural gas
+ $1.96 US ($88.34 US)	$3.553 US (- 13.5¢)
	Gold $1,652.80 US (- $23.80)

TSX	Dollar
+ 130.07 (12,053.11)	+ 0.74¢ (98.58¢ US)

Nova Scotia Nominee Program, Economic Stream Refund

If you paid fees to the Economic Stream of the Nova Scotia Nominee Program, **you might be able to get some money back from the Province of Nova Scotia**. Read this to find out more.

What is this about?

A lawsuit was started against the Province of Nova Scotia in 2009. The goal was to get a refund for people who applied for and paid fees into the former Economic Stream of the Nova Scotia Nominee Program. The Supreme Court of Nova Scotia has now certified that lawsuit as a class action. Your legal rights may be affected. The lawyers for both sides have made a deal that would give a refund to eligible people. The Supreme Court of Nova Scotia approved the settlement as fair and reasonable.

Am I included?

You are if you (1) paid money to Nova Scotia under the Economic Stream of the Nova Scotia Nominee Program, (2) landed and obtained permanent resident status in Canada, and (3) did not already get a refund. As long as you told the truth in your application and immigration filings, you should be eligible for a refund.

What does this mean for me?

If you are a Class Member, your legal rights are affected. You will benefit from any settlement, but you must give up your right to sue the Government of Nova Scotia on your own.

How much will I get?

If you were not paid anything under a business mentorship, you will get $63,750 back if your claim is approved ($75,000 less an approved 15% fee of $11,250). If you were paid under a business mentorship, the amount you were paid will be deducted from $75,000. The 15% fee will be taken from the net amount.

Do I have to pay anything out of my own pocket?

No. The lawyers' fees have already been accounted for in the amount set out above. You will not be billed. The Supreme Court approved the lawyers' fee as fair and reasonable

How do I get my money?

You have to fill in a Claim Form. A copy of the Claim Form can be found at *http://www.branchmacmaster.com/nova-scotia-immigration/*. You must mail, fax, or email in the form by **May 4, 2012.**

What if I do not want to take part?

If you do not want to take part, you have to opt out. If you opt out, you will not get any benefit from the settlement. You will have to sue the Government of Nova Scotia on your own if you wish to recover anything. To opt out, go to *http://www.branchmacmaster.com/nova-scotia-immigration/*, download the opt out form, and submit it to the address listed. If you want to opt out, you must do so before **Jan. 5 2012.**

What if too many people opt out?

If more than 50 people opt out, the Province has the right to cancel the settlement. Neither the Province nor the lawyer for the class expect this to occur however.

I have other questions.

For more information, visit *http://www.branchmacmaster.com/nova-scotia-immigration/*. If you still have questions, just contact the lawyer appointed by the court to act for the class, Greg McMullen at Branch MacMaster LLP, at *gmcmullen@branmac.com* or *604-631-2560*.

NOVA SCOTIA

HOW TO EMBARK ON RIGHT PATH AND PLAN YOUR TRIP ACCORDINGLY

Running a small business has its challenges and successes.

To overcome the challenges, it's important to seek help from someone who is as committed to the success of your business as you are — a certified general accountant (CGA). They provide the knowledge and skills that go beyond typical accounting services to see the big picture and provide the financial expertise to identify opportunity. After all, shouldn't every aspect of your business have the potential to strike a high return on investment?

NEWS CANADA PHOTO

A BUSINESS PLAN IS YOUR ROAD MAP TO SUCCESS

Every small business needs a plan to embark on the right path and achieve steady growth. Think of a business plan as a road map to success and plan your trip accordingly.

A CGA has the skills and expertise to plan your map, get you started and keep you on the road to success.

BUSINESS STRUCTURES AFFECT TAXES AND LIABILITIES

Most organizations have three forms of business structures from which to choose: Proprietorship, partnership and corporation. The right business structure will maximize the potential of your business and help you avoid surprises at tax time.

GOOD RECORD KEEPING MAKES GOOD BUSINESS SENSE

Not only is good record keeping the law — good record keeping makes good business sense. The law requires businesses to maintain books of original entry, sufficient to determine that all taxes have been collected, paid and assessed. Additionally, your business needs to keep records so you can measure your progress and identify opportunities to grow.

TAX AND PAYROLL DEDUCTION REMITTANCE IS MANDATORY

Harmonized sales tax (HST) and payroll deductions are held in trust for government agencies. These taxes and deductions must be remitted — on time and in full — no matter how tight the cash flow of your business. The penalties imposed for failing to remit can be significant.

YOUR BANKER IS YOUR ALLY

Your banker wants your business to succeed — why else would the bank lend you money? Help your banker to understand your business by providing detailed, timely and pertinent information. When your banker is your ally, your ally is a small business asset.

YOU MAY NOT WANT TO DO THIS FOREVER

The day may come when you want to retire or move on to other challenges. A CGA will help you plan for that day.

More information or access to other small business resources is available online at cga-ontario.org or toll-free at 1-800-668-1454. *– News Canada*

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CONSIDER ALL THE QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU TAKE THE PLUNGE

Many Canadians have at one time thought of a great idea that they could turn into a business.

But there are some important questions to consider before you put your business idea into motion.

- Are you ready for entrepreneurship?
- Do you feel comfortable making all the decisions?
- Do you like to work hard and are you self-motivated?
- Do you have a detailed business plan?
- Are you comfortable with a certain amount of financial risk?
- Do you really know how much it will cost to start your business?
- Are you willing to put in the extra time needed to make your business successful?

"Lots of unexpected expenses and lots of government regulation," says Sarabjit Bhalla, president of Creations Amenda, a retailer, commenting on what many new business owners find when starting a business. Bhalla adds that while being your own boss is the best part of running your business, self-discipline is key, as there are no set road maps for being successful.

Before taking the plunge, know what's involved in launching your business. Consider the time, money and energy it will take to succeed. Start your research with free business services.

Call Canada Business Ontario's Business Info Line at 1-888-745-8888 or visit canadabusiness.ca before you launch. They provide information on regulations, government financing options for your project, business planning and secondary market research. If you are just getting started, they also have a short video on business start-up to get you warmed up.

Entrepreneurs cite that the rewards of starting your business are substantial — independence, pride of ownership and the freedom of being your own boss, to name a few. However, the day-to-day running of a business can be challenging, particularly in the start-up phase, so be sure to have asked yourself if you are ready. With the right information and proper planning, you will be on the right track to fulfil your entrepreneurship goals. *– News Canada*

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

Space really is the final frontier — for tourists at least.

If you're forced to stifle yawns at the prospect of yet another visit to the all-inclusive Budget Paradise Cancun, wake up! In the next five years, according to delegates to this week's National Symposium for Personal and Commercial Spaceflight, outfits such as Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin, and XCOR Aerospace will routinely offer space flights of fancy.

While early space tourism is not exactly going where no one has gone before — it will feature the kind of sub-space trips flown by the Mercury pioneer astronauts in the '60s — it's still a far cry from Sandals. The view is to die for, and you get to experience weightlessness for five whole minutes. Bite me, gravity.

This is not science fiction: It's going to happen. Virgin Galactic has already glide-tested the VSS Enterprise, and the six-passenger ship will undergo rocket-powered tests next year. Meanwhile, 450 people have put down $20,000 deposits on the $200,000 fare Virgin Galactic will charge when it finally gets off the ground. AXCOR's two-seater Lynx will be a little cheaper: $95,000 for a round trip.

"There's no word how many frequent flyer points will be required, but rumour has it they'll start with a zillion and work up from there. Blackouts will be routine — and that's once you're on the flight."

There's no word how many frequent-flyer points will be required, but rumour has it they'll start with a zillion and work up from there. Blackouts will be routine — and that's once you're on the flight. The entire experience will take only two and a half hours, but for space geeks the memories will last a lifetime … if they survive re-entry.

Virgin is even building a spaceport in the New Mexico desert, which is appropriate, considering that nearby Roswell is the world HQ for alien encounters.

The $209-million Spaceport America was christened a couple of days ago by Branson himself, who climbed down the side, quaffing champagne. Let's get this party started.

For those of you who think it's a waste of money and carbon and would rather go to Tuscany, I understand.

For $200K, you could spend the entire growing season in a luxury Tuscan villa, where it's warmer and sunnier than space, where the average temperature is three degrees above absolute zero. Well, at least it's not absolute zero.

The view in Tuscany is also pretty good, but on a clear day in space, you can see everywhere.

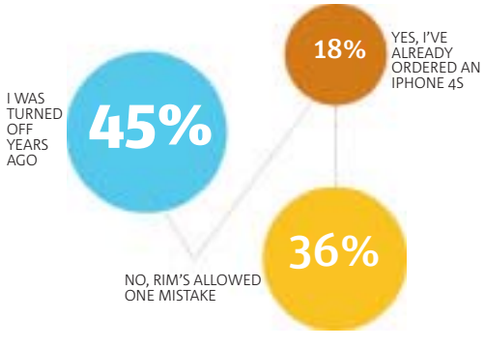
So far, I haven't been able to convince my wife to deposit 20 grand on the VSS Enterprise. She's up for a cruise but was thinking Alaska or the Caribbean.

I guess some people do not want to boldly go where no one has gone before, unless it has room service.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Did the outage turn you off of BlackBerry smartphones?



Local tweets

- **@ lorenzo henrie:** #wheniwas14 i watched morning cartoons.... oh wait... i still do...
- **@ DABieberDolls:** When i was a kid, I used to close the fridge slowly just to see when light turned off. #thingskidsdo.
- **@ Ricky_TV :** #ThingsKids-Do take deep breaths after saying a whole sentence lol
- **@TheOnion:Report:** Fax Machines Still Pretty Impressive If You Think About It onion.com/pHy9nu #OnionScience
- **@SKrishnapillai:** RT @western_usc: Problems connecting to #UWO Wireless? Try these tips.... http://t.co/CRhMJMEb
- **@TheOnlyOnKing:** "@Emily_Chandler: @karps You won't be disappointed by @TheOnlyOnKing It's great #ldnont" Thank you Emily!
- **@artistic_spa:** Oct 19th-One day promo- 30% off #Brazilian or #Bikini #waxing! #LdnOnt #UWO #Fanshawe
- **@chadder87:** About to see what's your number? I hope its good. #ldnont #fingerscrossed

Letters

There is a federal review of all spending by all government departments underway. All departments have been told to look at their budgets with a view to cutting five per cent or 10 per cent (both are an option) from their operations and programming budgets. This type of review is needed in these tumultuous financial times, but unfortunately it also includes Veterans Affairs Canada.

We will battle with all we have to prevent any programs or operations that will have the direct effect of our veterans' benefits being cut. Veterans — serving or retired; regular, reserve or RCMP — should always be given the thanks of the country that put them in harm's way. There is a way to show that thanks — and that is by not cutting any benefits that have accrued to them in the past because of this review.

President Barack Obama has stated that American veterans' programs would be exempt from the U.S. program review and that the U.S. would not live off the backs of the American veteran.

PATRICIA VARGA
ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

photo of the day

▶ This photo titled FUN At The Park! was submitted to the Photo of the Day category by stevetroletti.com from Montreal.

Metro invites its readers to join the Metro Global Photo Challenge — running in 100 cities on four continents — to win fantastic prizes and worldwide recognition. Enter your digital photos at metrophoto-challenge.com. The contest runs until Nov. 22. As well as a chance to win a trip to any city Metro publishes, one submission will also be featured here daily.

WEIRD NEWS

PhDs can only be explained by interpretive dance

So you think you can dance, Einstein?

Two Canadian scientists are among 16 finalists in this year's edition of a growing international competition that uses PhD theses as inspiration for dance videos.

"The goal of the contest is to be able to portray your research in a way that's fun to watch and that's easy to understand," said Erin McConnell, a Carleton University biochemist. Her thesis DNA Aptamers as a Tool for Studying Mental Health Disease is surprisingly well-expressed using of hip-hop, ballet and Highland fling.

The annual Dance Your Thesis contest attempts to use dance to bridge the gap between science and the public — and lets scientists blow off a little steam after too many hours in the lab.

Creator John Bohanon said it all began as a way to liven up a New Year's Eve party. "I wanted it to be a dance party, but scientists are like everyone — you either need a lot of alcohol or a bizarre party theme to lighten the mood," he said. "I figured it would be really fun to have everyone compete by explaining their PhD research in dance form." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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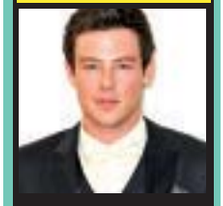
2 scene

Scene in brief



Glee star Cory Monteith has been named grand marshal of the Grey Cup festival parade. Monteith grew up in Victoria and moved to Vancouver as a teen to try his hand at acting. Monteith has also made the leap to the big screen, starring in Monte Carlo alongside Selena Gomez. He also appeared at last month's Toronto International Film Festival to promote the Canadian indie effort Sisters and Brothers. In a statement, Monteith said he is honoured to serve as grand marshal of the parade, adding that it's a thrilling excuse to come home. The 2011 Grey Cup Festival will be hosted by the B.C. Lions and will take place Nov. 24-27. The parade is set for Nov. 26, the day before the CFL championship game.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Jersey's Monmouth University to be new home for Bruce Springsteen collection

Another makeover for the Musketeers

A hilarious look at the reincarnations of our three favourite swashbucklers through the years

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

What do beloved hoofer Gene Kelly and post-millennial wild man Charlie Sheen have in common? The Hollywood stars both were "all for one, one for all" in a Three Musketeers movie.

Kelly was the heroic D'Artagnan in the 1948 version of the Alexandre Dumas story, while Sheen was — unsurprisingly — the arrogant womanizer Aramis in 1993.

The swashbuckling exploits of D'Artagnan and his three friends first appeared in print in 1844. Sixty years later a French film detailed their exploits for the first time.

Since then they have swashbuckled though an all-girl version called Barbie and the Three Musketeers, an old west adaptation starring John Wayne and bow wowed in an all canine edition called Dogtanian and the Three Muskethounds.

This weekend the all-new Three Musketeers brings their swashbuckling style to the big screen for the 30th time in the last century.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Logan Lerman, left, Luke Evans, Ray Stevenson and Matthew Macfadyen star in The Three Musketeers 3D.

The Gene Kelly Three Musketeers is probably the most accurate adaptation from page to stage, but the most entertaining — and star studded — has to be The Three Musketeers: The Queen's Diamonds.

The 1973-era movie is bawdy, outrageous and action packed, with lavish set design and an even more lavish cast, including Michael York, Oliver Reed, Charlton Heston, Christopher Lee, Raquel Welch and Faye Dunaway.

Highlights include a chess game played with trained dogs and monkeys and some of the best sword fighting this side of an Errol Flynn movie.

The Musketeer (2001) features plenty of swordplay, but amps up the action with crouching tiger choreography by martial arts master Xin Xin Xiong.

Starring Justin Chambers as D'Artagnan, the story will ruffle the giant feather plumes worn by Dumas purists but as an action movie — Roger Ebert wrote, "Occasionally the action is interrupted by dialogue scenes" — it is the most exciting of the recent Musketeers movies.

Occasionally the Musketeers have appeared as supporting characters.

In 1998's The Man in the Iron Mask, the aging D'Artagnan and his posse — played by Gabriel Byrne, Jeremy Irons, John Malkovich and Gérard Depardieu — come out of retirement to rid France of an evil king, Louis XIV and replace him with his twin brother, both played by Leonardo Di Caprio.

Based on Dumas's novel Count of Bragelonne the story was also the basis for The Fifth Musketeer, a 1979 movie with the unlikely cast of Beau Bridges as Louis XIV and Alan Hale Jr. (best known as The Skipper from Gilligan's Island) as Musketeer Porthos.

On the road

CHRIS ALEXANDER
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

It's been 41 years since filmmaker Donald Shebib put Canada on the cinematic map with his kinetic, heartfelt nouvelle vague drama Goin' Down the Road, the tender tale of two destitute East coasters (Doug McGrath and the late Paul Bradley) who jump in their car and split for the promised land of post-'60s Toronto.

What they find is more hardship, trapped in a chilly city that cares not for their plight. But the world certainly cared for Shebib's cheap and charming film, with heavy hitting critics like Pauline Kael and Roger Ebert giving it the solid thumbs up.

"We shot that film all hand held and rough because he didn't have the money," says Shebib.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Doug McGrath stars in Down the Road Again.

"We made it on the fly with what we could get, but we had the luxury of time, shooting for eight weeks and completely non union."

The surprise success of the scrappy little film was a double edged sword for Shebib, making his career while also chaining him to the verite expectations he had no intention of fulfilling. After making a respectable living in features and TV, Shebib recently rounded up the surviving gang including McGrath, beloved actress Jayne Eastwood and Cayle Chernin (who sadly died of cancer earlier this year) to revisit the characters in the twilight of their lives in his latest, Down the Road Again, a sequel that sees McGrath's Pete hitting the trails with the remains of his deceased pal and making for his east coast home to scatter his ashes. What he finds is a family he never knew he had.

'When Don sent me this script, I couldn't be objective about it," McGrath told Metro, "because it was like reading my own history and it was like the life for this character was suddenly continuing. It was very emotional and I needed time to absorb it."

Lining up under Biebs' Mistletoe

Justin Bieber is first artist on Universal Music to be allowed to have some of his album sales benefit a charity

Justin Bieber is in the holiday spirit: The singer is the first artist on the Universal Music roster to have part of his album sales benefit charity.

Partial sales from Under the Mistletoe, his Christmas album that is out Nov. 1, will go to various charities, including Pencils of Promise and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

"Universal never actually allowed money from the album to go to charity, so it's kind of a unique thing and I'm very happy and proud of what we've done," the 17-year-old said in an interview from Lima, Peru, on Monday.

Bieber said he isn't sure how much of the sales will go to charity, but thanks his team for helping him achieve his goal of wanting to help others during the holiday season.

"I tell them basically what I want and they kind of go and help me get it done," said Bieber, who will also donate money to various food banks.

Under the Mistletoe features collaborations with Mariah Carey and Boyz II Men, among others. He said he wanted to "work with people who had great experiences with Christmas albums."

"They were all great people and fun to be around," said the Canadian-born entertainer, who appears on a "super festive" version of Carey's classic song All I Want for Christmas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The album

Lots of big names attached to the album

- **Who?** Chris Brown co-wrote and co-produced the song Christmas Eve. And there are also tunes featuring Usher and the country trio the Band Perry.
- **Rapping** Bieber raps on the Busta Rhymes-assisted Drummer Boy

ENRIQUE CASTRO MENDIVIL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Justin Bieber performs during his My World Tour concert at the National Stadium in Lima, Peru.

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Line-up subject to change.

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Demi Moore puts on brave face for rumours

Wears wedding ring in her first public appearance since infidelity news

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Making her first appearance since reports of Ashton Kutcher's infidelity went public, Demi Moore walked the red carpet at the New York premiere of her new film, Margin Call, this week, according to Us Weekly.

The actress, who showed up solo but wore her wedding ring, put on a "stoic smile," according to onlookers.

"Everyone was remarking how thin Demi was, more so than usual," a source says. "She seemed in a decent mood though, even a little happy to be there."

Infidelity rumours have plagued the couple for months with much of the blame landing at the feet of Kutcher. METRO

"Everyone was remarking how thin Demi was...She seemed in a decent mood though, even a little happy to be there." SOURCE

Demi Moore

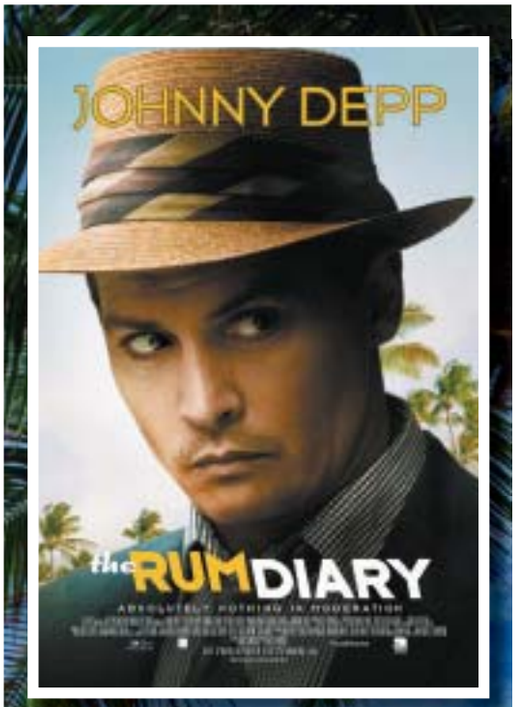
Yoooouuu ... got arrested

Rapper Soulja Boy — whose real name is DeAndre Cortez — was arrested for marijuana possession yesterday in Temple, Ga., according to TMZ.

The 21-year-old's car was pulled over for a traffic violation, but police then found "a substantial amount" of marijuana in the car, as well a a selection of guns and close to $70,000 in cash. The four other passengers in the car were arrested as well.

Soulja Boy shot to fame following his smash Internet hit Crank That (Soulja Boy). METRO

Soulja Boy



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Out of this world

Sedona, Ariz., has long been associated with spiritual and paranormal activity
But this quirky locale offers visitors plenty to do — just watch out for little green men

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

They say there's some magic in those beautiful red rock formations in mystic Sedona, Ariz., and who am I to argue?

Truth is, it's pretty hard to find any place on earth more beautiful than this strange oasis tucked in the middle of the desert. I had heard stories of this spiritual mecca being a sacred place for aboriginals for thousands of years, and soon after arriving I could see why.

Sedona is just somehow different, and almost surreal compared to the endless flat desert surrounding it. Many visitors have reported countless spiritual and paranormal experiences, and the UFO sightings continue to pour in every year.

In fact, Sedona is considered a major power centre, right up there with Stone Henge and the Pyramids, and I have to admit, I felt a certain surge in my aura while strolling among those amazing rocks.

It may have been the wine and burritos from the night before, but I swear many of Sedona's massive rock formations looked almost intricately carved by someone or something.

Maybe it was the aliens.

Cathedral Rock and Bell Rock are two of the most popular attractions in the area. Bell Rock is considered by some to be a portal to other dimensions.

I could almost envision the mother ship waiting for me ... or not. Whether you happen to believe in the supernatural or find it all hogwash, Sedona is well worth the pilgrimage. I found myself a tad awestruck at the unique beauty all around.

PHOTOS: DARREN PARKMAN/METRO NEWS

▶ There's something about the red rock formations in Sedona, Ariz., that captivate visitors.

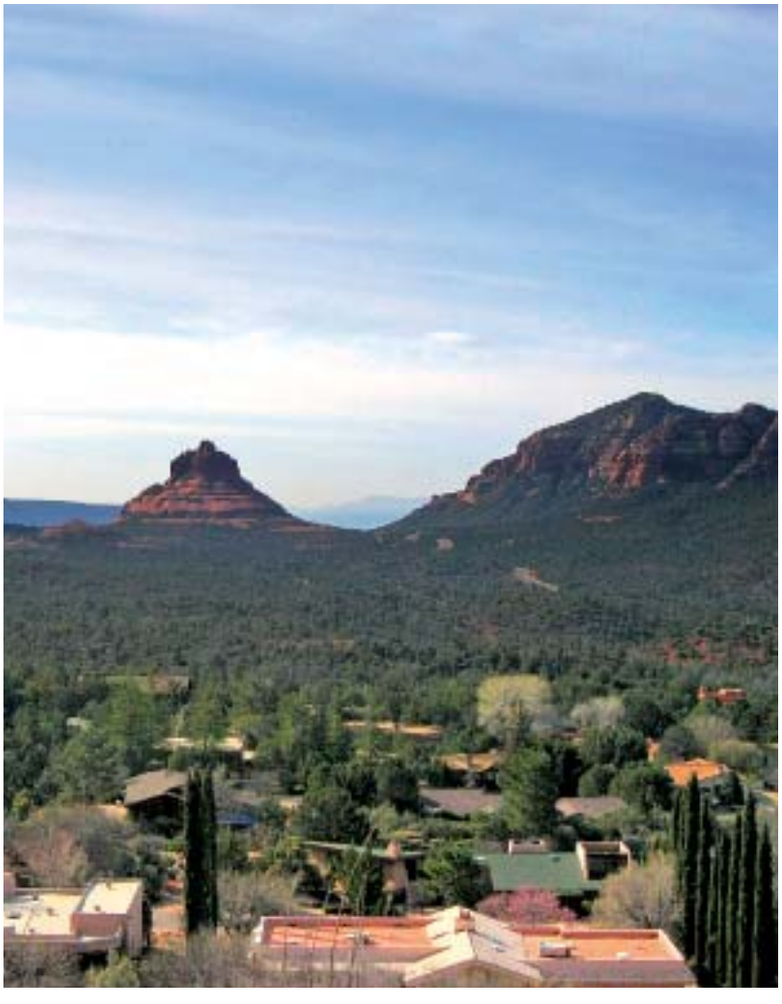
The surrounding community has a very laid back, almost spaced out (pardon the pun) feel to it.

There's plenty of hidden canyons and trails for hiking and mountain biking, and many show up to enjoy a day of "birding," apparently the cool Sedona way of bird watching. Because its elevation is more than 1,300 metres, there are a unique variety of feathered friends to watch year round.

Although they have little in common, Sedona does share one feature with its polar opposite, Las Vegas.

In recent years, many couples flocking to the magic rocks for quickie, but spiritual weddings.

There is a lot to love in this magical little oasis ... just watch out for little green men!



Other cool things to do

- **Star Gazing:** Evening Star tours offer a personalized guided tour of the heavens. The area is so dark, you'll be treated to a heavenly light show.
- **Golf and Tennis:** The area features several championship courses and local resorts feature year-round tennis in the desert.

3 life

Travel in brief

British billionaire Richard Branson was in Sierra County in southern New Mexico on Monday to get the keys to Spaceport America, the newly completed terminal and hangar facility where his Virgin Galactic will begin its commercial space tourism venture from this remote patch of desert. The building will house Virgin Galactic's spacecraft, mission control and a preparation area for space tourists.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NYC skyline park inspires ideas for new life for old viaduct blighting Philly's 'eraserhood'

Silence not golden for us job-seekers

STUDENT VOICE

Nicole Abi-Najem

I graduated with a degree in Radio and Television Arts at Ryerson University in the spring of this past year. In my final semester, I landed a coveted internship at the Late Show with David Letterman in New York City. I returned to Toronto starry-eyed and sure that my resumé would magnetize employers. Months of unemployment later, I'm frustrated and left wondering what went wrong.

My job search began mid-way through my internship at the Late Show, creating a cushion of time to face rejection and find opportunity. I sent out my resumé and cover letter to countless companies across Toronto. I made phone calls and waited.

My efforts and strategies varied, but the response remained the same: silence. The lack of response was something I attributed to geographical distance. Upon arriving to Toronto, I intensified my search with a broadening focus on creating an online and personal presence. I made daily phone calls with detailed messages, sent hard copies of my resumé, provided links to my projects and networked.

The most irritating aspect of the career search is not rejection, but a sheer lack of response. A silent frustration settles, because my efforts have not met with the validation of a yes or no. My exasperation over simply hearing back overshadows the job hunt.

Record high unemployment for recent graduates has created desperation and a scramble for the few entry-level offerings available. Employers are inundated with hundreds of resumés that leave them incapable of giving each applicant adequate attention.

Employers should reward our efforts with their time. There is an understandable gap in the ratio of applications and responses. It's easy to screen resumés for key words and to rely on technology to select appropriate applicants and, especially in entry-level positions, far too convenient to select those who simply know the right people. If you notice someone making the effort to contact you personally, consider their enthusiasm and dedication as a skill that will translate well in your company and an effort that should at least merit a conversation. Give them advice and take the time to listen. **TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.**

What I learned

Key take-aways from Nicole's experience.

- Get to know professionals in your dream industry and ask to chat before asking for a job.
- Use your network to meet employers and keep in touch with them once you do.

Where Nicole is now

I am currently working at Indigo as a Customer Experience Representative. I am also applying to graduate schools to help me find a specific focus in which to concentrate my skills and passion. I have decided to apply for either a master's of journalism or to teacher's college.

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WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
DAN@CANADAEMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN

Are you dreaming of becoming the next senior executive of your company? Are those dreams based on assurances of more money, seniority and status? If so then read on as this is the story of one employee who recently learned that employment promises must clearly be put into writing, otherwise it is as if they were never made at all.

Thomas McNeely was a "big deal" employee working as a senior executive for a weight loss company, Herbal Magic, when a group of investors came together in a bid to purchase the company. McNeely, a sophisticated business person, was actively involved in the negotiations leading to the acquisition of the company and maintained his interest in becoming its next president and CEO. However, he was reluctant to invest his own money in the deal.

To persuade him to put up his own capital, McNeely was assured by the other investors that he would be a long-term senior employee of the new company and a member of its board of directors. However, this was not put into writing. Instead, McNeely negotiated an employment contract containing an "entire agreement" clause, which is a contractual term prohibiting parties to the contract from relying on any oral promises not written into the contract itself.

After the acquisition, McNeely was named president and CEO, but only for seven months, until he was fired and removed from the board of directors. Since McNeely was unable to withdraw his financial investment in the company, he sued, claiming that the promises made to him constituted an agreement apart from the contract he signed.

At a recent court hearing, the judge concluded that the clause in McNeely's contract prevented him from relying on any promises or agreements not contained within the contract, despite the fact that the defendant did not deny making those statements. Accordingly, McNeely was out of luck.

This decision highlights a critical mistake that too many employees continue to make. They form decisions based on promises that are not reflected in the documents they are later asked to sign. To avoid this scenario, do not blindly sign employment contracts without first having them reviewed and never be reluctant to renegotiate terms.

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.

The rock 'n' roll world is all business?

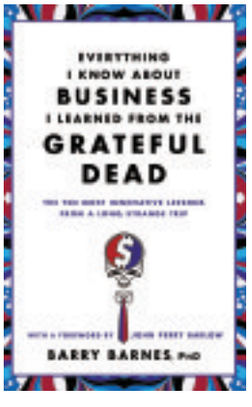
Could the Grateful Dead be business consultants?

BRUCE WALSH
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

In 1972, Barry Barnes heard the Grateful Dead for the first time. "Was it a shift in consciousness? Yeah," he explains.

He spent the next 17 years pursuing an MBA and later worked as an executive at John Deere — until 1989, when inspiration struck: What could the Grateful Dead teach the business world?

"I could see the dramatic changes in the economy, and I saw businesses struggling to adapt," he explains. "The music was speaking to me in a non-verbal language, saying: 'Look, you talk about adaptability? Here it is. Teamwork? Creativity? Innovation? Reaching out to your customers? These guys know how to do this better than anybody.'"



He promptly quit his job and began a doctoral program at the University of Kansas, where he hoped to study the "organizational principles of the Grateful Dead."

Now, after 20 years of study, Everything I Know About Business I Learned from the Grateful Dead: The Ten Most Innovative Lessons from a Long, Strange Trip, is set to hit bookstores in November.

"The people that I interviewed in the Grateful Dead organization were on the business side. They weren't in the band. For the band, it's easy to say [they didn't plan anything]," says Barnes. "But you can't have a successful organization that tours the country nonstop for 30 years without a whole lot of planning going on."

Will anyone be watching?

World Series feature big hitters, ace pitchers and Rally Squirrel, but no big TV draws

ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Adrian Beltre and his Rangers teammates practice yesterday at Busch Stadium in St. Louis.

A big star who's overcome personal adversity. A popular band that everyone counted out. A crazy critter with a cute nickname.

Turn on the TV this week, and you can see top talent, neat plot lines and two loaded lineups.

So what's it going to be: Sofia Vergara on ABC or Criminal Minds on CBS?

Oh, the World Series? That, too.

By any measure, the matchup of the Texas Rangers and St. Louis Cardinals that starts tonight is a nifty one. A totally unexpected pairing, boosted by sluggers Albert Pujols and Josh Hamilton and spiced by a Rally Squirrel.

But minus big-market teams, and at a time when TV ratings for baseball games are dwindling, this is the overarching question as the Series begins in the shadow of the Arch at Busch Stadium: Will anyone watch?

A Yankees cap turned backward on his head as he waited to pick up a fare in midtown Manhattan, cab driver Jay Javid of Brooklyn said he wouldn't tune in after his favourite team got eliminated.

"I'll be watching cricket," said Javid, who was born in Pakistan.

The Rangers didn't make much of a dent last year, when their games against the San Francisco Giants drew an 8.4 rating. That matched the lowest ever for a World Series, tying Philadelphia and Tampa Bay in 2008. It was 39 per cent higher when the Yankees and the Phillies played in 2009.

This October doesn't bode well for Fox, either. The Detroit-Texas and Milwaukee-St. Louis showdowns for slots in the World Series attracted little interest, compared to previous years.

"Realistically, the Yankees, love 'em or hate 'em, they're a big market, a lot of following around the country. It's the same thing with the Red Sox in a way. It is what it is," Fox Sports vice chairman Ed Goren said.

OK, so this might not be the Most Viewed Postseason. But there will be plenty of other MVPs inside the ballparks.

Hamilton, who struggled through drug-addiction demons that nearly derailed his major league career before it began, led Texas back into the Series.

Pujols helped the Cardinals make a remarkable run in the final month that culminated with them earning a playoff spot on the final day of the regular season. Adding to the intrigue: The three-time NL MVP has spent his entire career with St. Louis, but can leave for a big-bucks contract as a free agent this winter.

"If you haven't seen us playing and you think there's no fun with the way we've been playing or the way Texas is playing, then you're not really a true fan of baseball," Pujols said.

Add in David Freese, the local guy who blossomed into a St. Louis star; Texas fixture Michael Young, who asked for a trade and then stuck around; and a plucky squirrel who scampers across home plate at Busch Stadium, and there's ample to enjoy.

"It's two middle-of-the-country teams," Texas second baseman Ian Kinsler said. "I think it's awesome that there's no coasts here."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The ump

Umpire Jerry Layne has been named crew chief for the World Series between the Texas Rangers and St. Louis Cardinals.

Marathon session for NBA

NBA players and owners met for more than 10 hours with a federal mediator yesterday, hoping to deliver the progress Commissioner David Stern says is needed to avoid cancelling more games.

George Cohen began overseeing the talks about 10 a.m. Stern sought immediate results in just one day of mediation, saying during interviews last week that proposals could get worse and more games could be lost without a deal yesterday.

"If there's a breakthrough, it's going to come on Tuesday," he told NBA TV. "And if not, I think that the season is really going to potentially escape from us because we aren't making any progress."

This was the longest negotiating session since owners locked out players when the old collective bargaining agreement expired at the end of the day June 30.

Cohen met with the sides individually at their offices Monday before both brought their full bargaining committees to a hotel yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC

St-Pierre will miss title fight

A knee injury suffered in training Tuesday has forced welterweight champion Georges St-Pierre out of next week's UFC 137 title fight with Carlos (Natural Born Killer) Condit.

"We don't play golf," a muted St-Pierre told The Canadian Press. "It's a full-contact sport. This stuff happens."

St-Pierre sustained a strained knee ligament defending a takedown at Montreal's Tristar Gym in his final week of training. The champion says he will be sidelined about four weeks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Quoted

"I think it's always exciting going into Toronto. Everybody likes playing there because of the atmosphere. Being able to play there before and being on a Canadian team again makes it that much better."

JETS CENTRE KYLE WELLWOOD ON PLAYING IN TORONTO TONIGHT TO TAKE ON HIS FORMER TEAM THE MAPLE LEAFS.

Scan code for more sports news.

5 drive

Leaf is no fancy golf cart

In fact, Nissan's electric offering is quite the car

Let's get one thing straight: the Nissan Leaf electric car is a fine piece of engineering.

It achieves the objectives its planners set out for it, and functions very well as an automobile.

Canadian customers can go online and reserve their Leaf now, starting at $38,395, with first deliveries scheduled for later this fall.

The larger question is: does the Leaf — does any pure electric car — make any sense?

Or is the entire Leaf program a multi-billion dollar public relations exercise instituted by Nissan to counter the fact that arch-rival Toyota has captured the high ground on hybrids, whose practicality is at least as equally dubious?

The Leaf is built on what Nissan calls a dedicated platform, shared with other electric cars from the Nissan-Renault Alliance, although I'll bet you'd find similarities in some chassis and suspension components to other front-wheel drive Nissan compacts.

Leaf is officially classified as a mid-size car, having total interior space roughly equivalent to Nissan's Altima. It seats four comfortably, five in somewhat of a pinch.

Power to the AC synchronous electric motor comes from a Lithium-Ion battery pack consisting of 48 four-cell modules nestled under the floor where it takes little space away from passengers and cargo.

Only when the 60/40 split rear seatbacks are folded does the high bulkhead between rear seat and trunk become obtrusive, preventing the loading of bulky objects.

Electric motors generate their maximum torque at zero r.p.m., which means the 107 horsepower 207 lb.-ft. unit launches the 1,525 kg Leaf away from rest at a satisfying rate.

Nissan won't quote a 0-100 km/h number, but various Internet sources suggest mid-seven seconds, which is very good.

There is no transmission as such in the Leaf; the motor winds up until it runs out of revs at around 140 km/h. Reverse simply runs the motor backwards.

If you choose the ECO mode, acceleration is considerably more leisurely; the payoff is longer range.

Nissan says Leaf is good for about 160 kilometres of normal driving. Lights, wipers, A/C, etc., will affect this; hard acceleration and high speeds dramatically so. A multi-screen display gives you the distances possible in either normal or ECO mode. It even draws concentric circles on the standard SatNav map to give you a clear indication of where you are and where you can get to. If you do have to call the Roadside Assistance number to get flat-bedded home, you can't say you weren't warned.

Electric motors are a lot quieter than internal combustion engines. The obvious advantage is a quiet ride; the loudest thing you'll hear apart from the sound system is the engine cooling fans up front.

Driving the Leaf is simplicity itself. Punch the On button, and when you get the green Ready light on the instrument panel, pull the shift lever left and back, hit the gas, and off you go.

A substantial portion of Leaf's braking effect is achieved by electric resistance as opposed to friction — the regenerative brakes convert kinetic energy back into electricity to re-charge the battery.

These are standard fare in electrics and hybrids; the trick usually is massaging brake feel as the system transitions from "regen" to friction and back again. Leaf does this as well — probably better — than any other such system I have tried. As I said at the start, the Leaf functions very well as a car. It fulfills Nissan's promise that it drives like a real car, not a fancy golf cart. It also is very relaxing to drive.

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ALL PHOTOS BY JIM KENZIE

▶ The Nissan Leaf is set to arrive in Canada this fall.

Nissan Leaf facts

- **Motor:** 80 KW AC Synchronous electric motor.
- **Power/Torque:** 107 hp/207 lbs.-ft.
- **Competition:** Chevrolet Volt, Mitsubishi i-MiEV.
- **What's Best:** Quick acceleration; quiet inside and out; relaxing to drive; feels like a 'real' car, not a glorified golf cart.
- **What's Worst:** Range still not large enough to be practical, at least not as an 'only' car; message centre and Owners Manual together weren't sufficient to diagnose a no-start condition.

Charging the Leaf

- A so-called "Level 3 DC Fast" installation can get it to 80 per cent charge in about 30 minutes. Problem: there are no Level 3 stations in Canada available to Leaf drivers at the moment, and only 20 in all of the United States.
- The Level 2 system involves fitting a 240 volt charging station into your garage at a cost of around $3,000. This will fill 'er up in about seven hours — essentially, overnight.
- Finally, a trickle charge from a standard 110 volt outlet will take about 18 hours.

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metro

Last-gen Legacy delivered all-weather confidence

SECOND GEAR

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Subaru has recently moved their popular Legacy sport sedan into its fifth generation for the 2010 model year — meaning the fourth-generation car has now transitioned fully into the used car marketplace.

For its last generation, Legacy was available in both sedan and wagon body styles.

Numerous special models were available, and feature content included heated leather seats, automatic climate control, a sunroof, remote access and more.

All-wheel drive was standard on all models.

2005 to 2009 Subaru Legacy

Engine

Available were a 2.5-litre four-cyinder boxer engine with 170 horsepower, a turbocharged version thereof making up to 250 horsepower, and a three-litre flat six.

Common issues

Look for rust on the used Legacy's trunk lid, and especially the trunk lip. You'll have to open the trunk to see any rust forming here.

Have a look under the vehicle for signs of rust or leaky differentials, as well as leaky engine or transmission seals.

A squealing or scraping noise from the front of the engine while idling could be caused by a belt-tensioner pulley that's starting to fail.

Verdict

Typically, Subaru drivetrains and powerplants are known to be very solid and reliable if properly maintained.

If everything checks out, a well-maintained last-generation Legacy should prove an enjoyable and confidence-inspiring ride for years to come.

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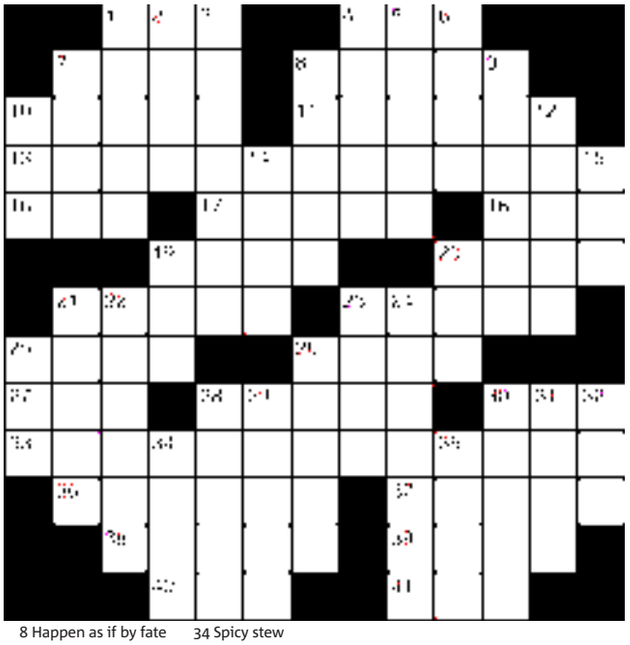
Crossword



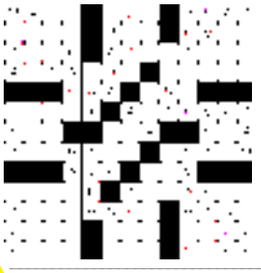
Across

1 Creche trio
5 Antiquated
8 Pulsate
12 Right angles
13 Kids' pie filling?
14 Eastern potentate
15 Go sightseeing
16 Pose
18 Embassy employee
20 Actress Spacek
21 Historic period
22 Conclusion
23 Without pizzazz
26 Try
30 Born
31 Playwright Levin
32 — constrictor
33 Lure
36 Choir rendition
38 "Hail!"
39 Total
40 Ecru
43 "Way to go!"
47 Lawyer
49 Anger
50 Humdinger
51 Web address
52 Up to
53 Scottish garment
54 Sock part
55 "That's one small — ..."

Down

1 Transcending (Pref.)
2 Oodles
3 Excessive supply
4 Where Tel Aviv is
5 Nebraska city
6 Minstrel's instrument
7 Banned pesticide
8 Happen as if by fate
9 Flightless flock
10 Lends a hand
11 Deuce defeater
17 "— It Romantic?"
19 Weep
22 Greek H
23 "CSI" evidence
24 Pensioned (Abbr.)
25 Nevertheless
26 Illustrations
27 Degree for a CEO
28 D.C. figure
29 53-Across wearer's hat
31 Lemieux milieu
34 Spicy stew
35 Maintain
36 Deposit
37 Intellect
39 Fashion
40 Abruptly refuse
41 Needle case
42 "— be OK"
43 Re planes and such
44 Fisherman's enticement
45 Look lasciviously
46 Shrill bark
48 Eccentric

▶ Yesterday's answer



Sudoku

			1	4				9
7						3	8	5
		3					4	
			3	1				2
	3		8		4		9	
1				2	6			
	9					7		
8	1	4						6
5				9	2			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

2	8	7	3	6	5	1	4	9
4	3	1	8	9	2	6	5	7
6	5	9	4	7	1	2	8	3
1	6	5	7	8	4	9	3	2
9	4	8	2	3	6	7	1	5
3	7	2	5	1	9	4	6	8
5	1	4	9	2	3	8	7	6
7	2	6	1	5	8	3	9	4
8	9	3	6	4	7	5	2	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

mangooli jan. azizam, u mean the world to me. I love spending everyday with u. I cant see myself living without u. I love u forever and ever and I cant wait to be ur wife. E&F<3 **GOOGOOLI JOON**

PBR, Babe, it's been a year already, and I feel closer to you now than ever. You are a true original, I'll never forget the way you taste on my lips. You truly are one of nature's choicest. Love you forever! **GRAEME**

*Luke Significant, Happy 21 Month Anniversary! There are no words to describe how much I love you! Being with you is the best feeling in the world and I know it will never stop. I can never wait for you to get home to get your hugs and kisses, and especially your cuddles because thats the greatest gift you can give me I LOVE YOU <3 *MUAH* (K)* **OLIVIA**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You must be honest about what you can do today, even if it means you have to disappoint someone.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You need to patch things up with someone you have been having an on-off argument with for weeks.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 It's as if you're walking around with a force field that repels negative vibrations. Let positive people in.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You may not be a typical tough guy, but you know how to get things done while others are panicking. Do it.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Your powers of imagination are high at the moment, as is your sensitivity to other people's needs.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You'll charm your way out of a tough spot but it won't solve the issue that got you there in the first place.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you go out of your way to help someone in need today, he or she will do you a good deed in return.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You seem a lot more laid back these days. Venus moves through your birth sign, offering perspective.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You will have to choose between making your own life more enjoyable or helping someone.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You will see the good in every person you meet today, and it will make your world better place.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You'll be in demand so much today that you'll need to turn down more invitations than you accept.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. If you are involved in anything of a creative nature, it is sure to go well. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

NATACHA PISARENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROB GRIFFITH/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

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Offer available until Oct. 31/11 or while quantities last and is subject to change without notice. *With new activation on any 3-yr. term voice and data plan having min. $45 monthly service fee (plus Government Regulatory Recovery Fee of up to $2.97). Early cancellation fees apply. **±The Government Regulatory Recovery Fee varies by province and ranges from $2.35-$2.97/line/month ($2.35 AB/BC/MB/ON, $2.75 QC, $2.88 NB, $2.97 NL, $2.78 NS, $2.85 PEI, $2.97 SK).** It is applied to help fund fees, costs and other amounts related to federal, provincial and/or municipal mandates, programs and requirements. **It is not a tax or charge the government requires Rogers to collect and is subject to change.** See www.rogers.com/regulatoryfee for details. A one-time Activation Fee of up to $35 (varies by province) also applies. Where applicable, additional airtime, data, long distance, roaming, options and taxes are extra and billed monthly. ©2011